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LEVEL DENSITIES IN  $^{56,57}\text{Fe}$ 

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Knowledge of the level density is important in many branches of nuclear physics, nuclear astrophysics and applied areas. Recently the Oslo group has extracted level densities for  $^{56}\text{Fe}$  and  $^{57}\text{Fe}$  nuclei from primary  $\gamma$  spectra using  $(^3\text{He}, \alpha\gamma)$  and  $(^3\text{He}, ^3\text{He}'\gamma)$  reactions on  $^{57}\text{Fe}$  target[1].  $^{56}\text{Fe}$  nucleus has significant astrophysical importance. The modern view predicts the direct production of  $^{56}\text{Fe}$  isotope in terms of weak nuclear statistical equilibrium (NSE)[2].

In the present contribution we have calculated the level densities of  $^{56}\text{Fe}$  and  $^{57}\text{Fe}$  nuclei on the basis of realistic shell model and the BCS Hamiltonian with inclusion of pairing interaction [3]. The experimental nuclear level densities have been compared with the results obtained with the microscopic theory . These results together with the calculational procedure will be presented and discussed.

## References:

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- [2] G. wallenstein et. al., Rev. Mod. Phys. 69, 995 (1997).
- [3] A.N. Behkami et. al., Phys. Rev. C66, 064307 (2002).